

*Wood Use: U.S. Competitiveness and  
Technology—Vol. II*

November 1984

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# Wood Use

U.S. Competitiveness  
and Technology

Vol. II  
Technology

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## Preface

The Office of Technology Assessment assessed the role of wood in the U.S. economy at the request of Senator Mark Hatfield, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and Senator Thad Cochran, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, Representative James Weaver, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms, and Energy, joined in support of the assessment in the House of Representatives. The final report of this assessment was published as volume I of Wood Use: U.S. Competitiveness and Technology, Representative Weaver requested that this second volume, a technical report on wood technologies and wood use, be prepared.

Volume II reviews the status of wood manufacturing technologies and surveys the current and future uses of wood products. It explores the existing or developing technologies and manufacturing processes that can enable the United States to benefit from its vast timber resource. Technologies for increasing the growth and production from the forest and the efficiency of harvesting and transporting timber were treated in volume I.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John H. Gibbons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

JOHN H. GIBBONS  
*Director*

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\*John Ward replaced Merle Conkin on the OTA Advisory Panel in October 1982.

## Acknowledgments

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## Abstract

The role of technology in achieving self-sufficiency-and perhaps in expanding export capacity-in wood products has received little attention. Although the United States has immense timber resources, it has been a net importer of wood products for a number of years, and Government projections of future wood supplies and demands indicate rising timber prices and increased dependence on foreign supplies.

Several ways exist to avoid wood shortfalls. They include increasing timber production through intensified timber management, better utilization of wood residues, more efficient harvesting, and use of currently underutilized species. Technology can help expand the resource base by enabling effective utilization of a wider range of wood species and sizes and by increasing the yield of products manufactured from a given amount of wood raw material through improved design and conservation.

The Office of Technology Assessment has assessed U.S. wood use and production at the request of Congress. This volume reviews wood manufacturing technologies that might be used to extend the timber resource through improved utilization and explores the prospects for changes in the way wood products are manufactured and used.